

Policy Considerations for the Donation of Public Parkland for Other Use

1. Is it a bona fide public recreational use that will serve the greater good?
2. Is the project scalable? In other words, is a one-off project something worth pursuing, or is it better to endeavor on a project that can be duplicated by others? And is the city willing to duplicate or offer similar terms to others?
3. Is this a “but-for” project? In other words, but for this donation, the project cannot or would not be possible any other way.
4. Are there secondary or tertiary benefits for this location over any others? Will this location improve, add value, or otherwise augment another community asset?
5. Are there other participating or willing community partners?
6. Is the primary user or developer privately-owned. Will the intended use be available to the public at large, or is the proposed project generally limited in public access and use?
7. Who stands to benefit from the project?
 - a summary of who gains from the decision to offer public land is important to account for a general doctrine of fairness. In making this evaluation, economic, political, spatial, social, and cultural benefits should be accounted for.
 - For example, an economic evaluation would include the general benefits to economic activity or added tax revenues. A spatial evaluation would examine if neighboring properties stood to benefit from a donation of land and the proposed use. If so, does it matter? If yes, could another location be chosen that removes such perception, and thus, protects public trust?
8. Are there any opportunity costs associated with this parcel. In other words, is something having to be given up or otherwise forgone as a result of this proposed use? If so, how long?
9. Have all voices had the opportunity to speak for or against this use to ensure that decision for the common good has been fully explored?
10. What financial consideration (e.g., lease rate) is being proposed or contemplated as part of this project? Is the City (public) being fairly compensated for use of public land?